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March 9, 2009

Natural Resources Committee
 Montana Senate
 State Capital
 Helena, MT 59620

RE: Support for HB 153

Dear Senate Natural Resources Committee Members:

The Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) consists of economic development professionals from across our state. Our organization represents more than 200 members who are actively involved in local economic activity and planning throughout Montana.

Clean-up of contaminated property has profound impact on economic development opportunities. HB 153 would amend Montana's Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment Act, and the proposed changes would improve the process that begins with assessment of property and submittal of a voluntary cleanup plan. For these reasons, MEDA would support for HB 153.

Our organization is looking forward to working with the Department of Environmental Quality to establish a Montana Brownfields Program, and HB 153 is a step in the right direction.

Thank you,

Jim Davison, President

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